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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Statement submitted by Franciscans International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Dominican Leadership Conference, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, Lutheran World Federation, and VIVAT International, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

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04-66264 (E) 260105

Enhancing Youth Participation and Action in the implementation of Copenhagen Declaration of the World Summit for Social Development

The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (1995) made many recommendations to include local stakeholders in "the setting of targets and in the design, implementation, monitoring, and assessment of national strategies…ensuring that such programs reflect their priorities." However, youth were not adequately addressed as local or global stakeholders in the plans of today towards the future of tomorrow. We recognize the presence and leadership of young people and believe that youth must be integrated into development policies so these policies can be fully effective.

Young people make up 1.2 billion (ages 15-24) of the world's population. All around the world youth need resources and an enabling environment to undertake personal and societal changes. When youth are integrated into the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of national strategies, it not only empowers them as individuals, but also enhances the collective coherence of youth as a group working together for a better future for us all. Youth participation in decision-making further strengthens government's commitments to human rights and democracy.

Existing models of youth participation are quite varied, ranging from effective, to sometimes token, to often non-existent. Successful models of participation should be replicated or adapted to specific political and socio-economic realities, taking in consideration the challenges facing youth organizations and other development actors. Nevertheless, the existing mechanisms for youth engagement and effective participation are channels that governments and institutions can currently use to mobilize young people as partners in achieving the goals of social development as well as the Millennium Development Goals.

We further recognize the links between the Copenhagen ten-year review and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and emphasize that youth should be made maximum partners in the implementation of the MDGs so that they will be achieved by 2015.

Building upon the declaration made by youth present at the World Summit for Social Development in 1995, we emphasize the following recommendations:

Education

- Recognize poverty as it affects youth and consider youth as a target group in poverty reduction strategies. Education of youth is important in the provision of a long-term strategy to minimize the effects of poverty and hunger.
- Improve quality of basic education. It should not only cover intellectual aspects but also practical and social skills for development. Educating youth about the goals you have set for development will further energize development efforts.
- Provide education which stimulates all individuals to recognize their inner potential and makes them responsible for their lives and for the future of humankind.
- Educate youth on nutrition, health, sanitation, contraceptives, HIV protection, etc.

Gender Equality

- Provide equal access to secondary and higher education for women and girls as a form of empowerment to overcome societal imbalances that prevail.
- Recognize gender equality. Including young women and girls status as equal partners in youth development and empowerment is essential in overcoming the societal imbalances.
- Pay particular attention to the at-risk status of girls throughout the world and work toward resocializing boys to respect girls as equals.
- Provide social programs for young women and girls that link them with services and information, especially in times of conflict, when they are most vulnerable and most affected by social and economic problems.

Environmental Sustainability

- Encourage environmental sustainability, conservation, and protection of the environment for the benefit of the next generation.
- Encourage the media to play a more effective role in facilitating social learning about the environment. Youth can develop new forms of activism and bring new energies and perspectives to environmental affairs.

Youth Employment

- Improve programs to prevent youth unemployment, including better mentoring and training so that youth have access to information on market opportunities and their rights as employees.
- Empower youth in rural areas by providing capacity building opportunities and resources to create employment and income. Prioritize programs and funding for rural youth to be managed by youth and geared towards youth.

We recommend at the national level that programs and policies:

- Motivate youth volunteerism at the national and international levels, and focus on assisting marginalized and vulnerable youth to organize them to address their own needs and interests.
- Allow youth to participate in the programming and implementing of a youth employment network to prevent youth marginalization and poverty.
- Emphasize partnerships between governments and youth, including youth participation as delegates and representatives at international conferences and forums by LDCs, developing countries, and developed countries.
- Recognize the importance of nations enhancing local, regional, national, and global capacities to respond to environmental challenges.
- Take necessary actions to prevent infanticide, trafficking of children and the use of children in pornography.
- Provide youth with support to enable them to eradicate racism and xenophobia.
- Define the real capital of the country as human capital, and invest sufficient resources, especially in youth, to develop this capital as a fundamental of development, especially when it comes to health, nutrition, education, and job training.

When governments acknowledge youth as an integral element in the future of development and the establishment of a peaceful and just global society, they empower and recognize their responsibility, potential, and future role as tomorrow's leaders.

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Statement submitted by the Elizabeth Seton Federation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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"We commit ourselves to promoting and attaining ... the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the access of all to primary health care, making particular efforts to rectify inequalities relating to social conditions.... The purpose of these activities is to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration." -The Copenhagen Declaration & Programme of Action, Commitment #6

Bearing in mind Article 25 of the Universal Declaration, on the right to medical care; Commitment #6 of the Copenhagen Declaration & Programme of Action of 1995; and the UN Millennium Declaration of 2000 MDG's that specifically target health: #4 Reduce child mortality, #5 Improve maternal health, and #6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; and the Secretary General's Report of the Twenty-Fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world" (A/55/344),

We know from our international grassroots service provision that poverty is both a cause and a result of poor health, and hinders access to proper medical treatment. Inadequate health education, diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and the necessary resources impact the spread of disease, early mortality, job loss, and social disintegration of the family and nation. Some essential areas that urgently need further global action are the HIV/AIDS pandemic; morbidity and mortality from uncontrolled communicable diseases especially malaria, tuberculosis, and cholera; excessively high infant, child & maternal mortality rates, and the lack of potable water and sanitation as a cause of disease. These areas especially need to be addressed in developing countries, with a priority focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. We therefore provide the following recommendations as a means to poverty eradication through health care and education.

1. **HIV/AIDS:** The pandemic of HIV/AIDS continues to spread exponentially in Africa and at an alarming rate in Asia. More than 6,000 young people (15-24 years of age) become infected each day. In 2002, 800,000 children under 15 years were infected and 600,000 children died of HIV/AIDS. It is projected that 25 million children under 15 years will be orphaned by AIDS in 2010. The targeting of 25 highly affected countries for a 25% reduction rate of HIV infection levels in youth has yielded an infection rate turn-around in Uganda, Zambia, & the United Republic of Tanzania. In areas with

active health education and prevention programs, prevalence in young women fell by up to 60% over 6 years. The Secretary General launched the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa, which includes governments, the private sector, NGOs and the UN. IPAA has created a momentum for resource mobilization and the development of National AIDS Strategic Plans. The rising costs of pharmaceuticals and the limited access to these necessary drugs continues to contribute to the crisis of health throughout the world. According to WHO "by late 2003 less than 7% of people in developing countries in urgent need of antiretroviral drugs were receiving them." Immediate need exists for readily available, affordable drugs to reduce this pandemic.

Recommendations:

-Encourage developed countries to create policies that cause pharmaceutical companies to immediately make safe antiretroviral drugs financially & geographically accessible so that all persons with HIV/AIDS may be treated.

Urge all Member States to work through the IPAA for a coordinated global effort in addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

-Encourage developed countries to provide ODA at the 0.7% level of commitment, and designate that a sufficient proportion of it be given to the HIV/AIDS crisis, so that developing countries will have the necessary resources for prevention & treatment programs.

-Encourage developed and developing countries to be aware that HIV/AIDS and relate [1] policies affect both physical and mental health, and that preventive programs should be created accordingly.

2. **Communicable Diseases -** Almost one-fourth (¼) of countries had a life expectancy under 60 years in 2002 (46 years in Sub-Saharan Africa). Malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and diseases from poor water and sanitation are the main causes in much of the developing world. Moving beyond Copenhagen and the delivering of basic health services, WHO is mobilizing national and international efforts regarding HIV/AIDS, malaria & tuberculosis to provide additional funds; monitor

effectiveness; influence public/private partnerships for research & development on diseases in developing countries; help governments develop sound national drugs policies; and influence the reform and implementation of international agreements on trade as related to essential drugs & technologies.

Recommendations:

-Member States should be urged to not only pledge full support, but immediately provide the necessary funding, policies and programs to carry out the above efforts of WHO.

-Encourage donor and developing countries to give priority to addressing water and sanitation needs, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Least Developed Countries. Local communities should be equal partners in the planning and implementation.

-Find new ways to promote political will to provide mosquito nets.

3. **Child and Maternal Mortality** - A woman dies every minute of every day in childbirth (more than one-half (½) million per year, generally from hemorrhage, infections, hypertensive disorders, obstructive labor, and unsafe abortions). They leave a million children a year without a mother. These invisible, preventable deaths have reached epidemic levels. Most are due to lack of national policies, choosing the wrong priorities, or the lack of political will. In 2002, forty-eight countries (about ¼ of Member States) had children less than 5 years of age mortality rates of 100 - 284 per thousand live births. Another ¼ had rates of 30 - 99 per thousand live births.

Recommendations:

-Encourage developed and developing countries to address the needs of women and the children in their care to ensure their human rights and well being.

-Encourage developing countries to make Peri-natal Care, in financially and geographically accessible community based primary health centers, a priority.

-Urge the G-8 and Bretton Woods institutions to provide Debt relief now for the LDCs in order to make money available for health services.

-Have UN organizations take the lead in assisting governments to make capacity building a priority, in order to educate local health care providers in preventive, primary, and acute maternal-child health care.

This statement is endorsed and supported by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:

Congregations of St. Joseph
International Association of Schools of Social Work
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries

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Statement submitted by Franciscans International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; American Psychological Association, Pax Christi International, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, and World Youth Alliance, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

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Introduction

Affirming the commitment of the World Summit on Social Development Platform of Action to "strengthen national efforts to address more effectively the growing HIV/AIDS pandemic by providing necessary education and prevention services, working to ensure that appropriate care and support services are available and accessible to those affected by HIV/AIDS, and taking all necessary steps to eliminate every form of discrimination against and isolation of those living with HIV/AIDS";

Recognizing, in line with the Copenhagen Platform of Action, that it is critical to social development that "special measures are taken to protect the displaced, the homeless, street children, unaccompanied minors and children in special and difficult circumstances, orphans…and to ensure that they are integrated into their communities";

We, NGOs committed to advocacy, direct service and global action related to HIV/AIDS, urge that the Copenhagen +10 Review renew and strengthen the commitment to provide support, protection and education for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS.

We are pleased to note that the Secretary-General, in his report of 25 July 2003, stated that there has been "significant progress in the global response to HIV/AIDS" since his report in August of 2002. We recognize and affirm the increase in political commitment and national efforts, particularly in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. These have been strengthened to provide education and prevention services, and provide support for stronger, better coordinated global actions against the pandemic – particularly through the activities of UNAIDS. However, with the Secretary General, we realize, that "in many important respects, the challenges posed by (HIV/AIDS) remain as large as ever." One of these challenges, which has not yet received the attention it requires, is the ever increasing number of children who are orphaned and poor because of the pandemic.

According to the 2004 report issued jointly by UNAIDS, UNICEF and USAID, *Children on the Brink*, there are millions of vulnerable children made orphans because of the pandemic and the number is likely to rise in the next decade. Currently, worldwide there are approximately 15 million orphans due to HIV/AIDS, 12.3 million in sub-Saharan Africa alone. These numbers demonstrate the magnitude of the crisis and call for an equally intense response on the part of governments everywhere, as well as other stakeholders – NGOs, businesses, intergovernmental agencies, financial institutions, religious groups, etc. At the World Summit and at Copenhagen +5, not enough policy attention was given to the situation of children orphaned and impoverished as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The massive impact of the condition of these orphans on social development everywhere needs more attention and more action first by governments and then by other stakeholders as well.

A Human Rights Framework for Effective Action

The extreme vulnerability of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS necessitates implementation of the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and related human rights instruments as the basis for effective interventions. We recognize that this vulnerability is heightened even more by the disruption to whole community structures when both the children and their mothers are stigmatized because of the loss of a father or spouse to the deadly virus. Such stigmatization is even more deplorable when we realize that, in many of the conflicts in Africa, soldiers and militia members who are infected intentionally spread the virus through rape of even very young girls as a weapon of war. We believe that this makes even more urgent the promotion of the CRC, which requires that as a primary consideration that all actions concerning children be in their "best interests"; i.e.

- "ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development" of children;
- provide special protection and assistance for children permanently deprived of their family and that alternative care provide continuity with the children's upbringing and their ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background;
- assist others responsible for children without parents to ensure a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development;
- preserve the children's family relations;
- "promote the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim…in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child;
- give due weight to the views of the children in accordance with their age and maturity;
- provide information and materials from a diversity of sources to promote children's social, spiritual, and moral well-being and physical and mental health;
- "protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse"; and
- promote children's right to education to develop their full potentials and prepare them for a "responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples.

Considerations regarding Appropriate Caregivers

When a child is orphaned, one needs to know if there is a surviving relative that is physically, mentally and emotionally able and accessible to care for the child. It may very well be that, in the absence of relatives, members of the community take on the responsibility of caring for orphans in a shared capacity. Generally the people who live in the community are in the best position to determine which children are at greatest risk and what factors should be used to assess their vulnerability and to set priorities for local action.

Programs should aim at geographic areas seriously affected by HIV/AIDS and then support the residents of these communities in organizing the identification and assistance of the most

vulnerable children and households. After losing parents and caregivers, children have an even greater need for stability, care and protection. Family capacity represents the single most important factor in building a protective environment for children who have lost their parents to HIV/AIDS, whether the head of the household is a widowed parent, an elderly grandparent, a young person, or a communal environment. There is an urgent need to develop and scale up family and community based care opportunities for the small but highly vulnerable proportion of boys and girls who are living outside of family care.

In the current situation of the world-wide pandemic, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has placed an enormous responsibility on governments and on every community and religious institution to help to alleviate the pain and suffering of this vulnerable group of children. In particular religious institutions have traditionally played an important and valuable role in the care of orphans throughout the world. We affirm this and value their continued presence on the front line at the local level. Their involvement is often key to the community responses to these children and should be supported.

We submit that at this time of the ten-year review, immediate, sustained and coordinated efforts to protect these children and preserve the family unit are urgently needed.

Policy and Action Recommendations to Governments

1. Urge all nations to commit more resources to the needs for healthcare, psychosocial support and recovery, and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention for children orphaned and made poor by HIV/AIDS. In particular, further support could be given to the WHO "3x5 initiative."

2. Call upon countries with high rates of AIDS infection to adopt and actively implement national plans of action to provide for the education and socialization of children who have been orphaned. At the present time only 17% of countries have a national plan of action which deals with this issue.

3. Ask UNICEF or other UN agency to develop a best practices resource that would assist nations in developing creative and effective plans of action designed to be appropriate to their local situation, taking into consideration the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (and girls), and other human rights standards. Plans of Action should include an assessment to determine the best care-giving situations and ongoing monitoring of the health, welfare and psychosocial well being of children in highly vulnerable situations. This assessment could also be used as a source for technical assistance.

4. Offer all children, among them the children orphaned because of HIV/AIDS, free education, giving them safe and viable options for earning a living and becoming contributing members of their communities.

5. Provide families with financial and other assistance that enable many orphans who might otherwise be separated from their families to remain with them. Promote creative means of financing such as debt swapping or tax on currency transactions to assist in providing resources to care for orphaned children in holistic and culturally appropriate ways.

6. Immediately support the identification of orphaned children through, among others, street educators and first-reception community centres that can connect with these children in the streets, protect them from immediate exploitation by adults and reconnect them, whenever possible, with existing extended family members or with support networks.

7. Call upon and encourage religious organizations to continue to provide shelter and aid for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS and call upon those who have not joined in this effort to reach out and organize a worldwide effort to help bring relief to this tragic situation. Although religious traditions and laws must be respected it is important that those taking advantage of these resources do so without pressure to embrace and follow these traditions, or be restricted by traditions other than their own.

8. Provide caregivers of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS with financial, educational, nutritional, health and psychosocial support along with other training in partnership with international or local institutions, faith-based and other non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to insure the proper care and development of orphaned children.

9. Recognizing the critical role of children and adolescents in confronting HIV/AIDS, duly respecting every person's dignity, mobilize resources to train, encourage, and empower them to develop their leadership potential in their communities. Also, allocate resources to development projects devised, implemented by, and targeting orphaned children and young people at the local level.

10. Include children and young people in international, regional, and local HIV/AIDS policy formulation and implementation, since HIV/AIDS has a disproportional impact on them. Today's children and young people represent future leaders of their communities and nations.

11. Integrate a gender perspective into all programs for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS by effectively assessing, addressing, and monitoring both the special needs and vulnerabilities of orphaned girls and boys.

This statement is endorsed and supported by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council:

Christian Children's Fund

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Congregations of St. Joseph

Dominican Leadership Conference

Elizabeth Seton Federation

International Association of Charities

International Association of Schools of Social Work

International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres

International Federation of Social Workers

International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation

Lutheran World Federation

National Council of Women of the United States

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries

VIVAT International

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Statement submitted by AARP, Congregations of St. Joseph, Franciscans International, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, and International Movement ATD Fourth World, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Christian Children's Fund, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Dominican Leadership Conference, Elizabeth Seton Federation, Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants, International Association of Charities, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, and VIVAT International, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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The Eradication of Poverty Requires Empowerment, Participation and Local Community Ownership

The 1995 Copenhagen Declaration recommended that people living in poverty should be fully involved in "the setting of targets and in the design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of national strategies and programs for poverty eradication and community-based development, and ensuring that such programs reflect their priorities." Many recent UN Conferences including Copenhagen +5, the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances and the World Assembly on Ageing as well as the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues draw attention to the special needs of marginalized people who live in poverty. When people suffering the effects of poverty are consulted as local stakeholders in development and are engaged as partners in the eradication of poverty, they take an active role in development projects. We are concerned that persons living in poverty and those who are marginalized -- including the aged, women, the girl child, indigenous peoples and victims of racism, xenophobia and related intolerances -- themselves participate in development projects from their very inception. Here are some examples:

- A group of very poor youth in East Africa traveled from the fish market where they worked, to a nearby primary school, where they helped to renovate a school for blind children. For some, this was their first encounter with education, and in a testament to the impression made, one youth returned to teach at the school as an adult. Thus the volunteers of an International NGO learned that those who live in extreme poverty have the energy and the ability to mobilize around projects that improve lives – both in their own community and in the greater world.

- In New York, homeless persons founded the organization *Picture the Homeless* five years ago, and now it is still managed entirely by people who are homeless. They struggle for the defense of their human rights, for justice and respect, and express their appeal to the rest of society in these terms: *Don't talk about us; talk with us.* Having a meaningful input into the project enabled them to express their views and demands, with no fear of consequences.

We must recognize that we all share in equal dignity and rights. Such recognition encourages people suffering from the effects of poverty to actively participate in community development. Respect for one another's culture, especially that of indigenous peoples and other victims of racism, supports the full use of the knowledge, skills and resourcefulness that people who experience poverty have acquired. For example, in an Indian Ocean country, an NGO met many children who often arrived at the hospital too dehydrated to be saved. Cultural differences between local health-care professionals and parents revealed themselves. The health-care workers assumed that because children were dying, parents didn't love their children; in reality, the parents felt more comfortable and in control in their homes than in hospitals. Professionals and the local community worked together to overcome these barriers through outreach and mutual education, in turn, creating a strong trusting friendship as equal partners in the protection of the health of children. This example indicates that working together with people to address their specific needs is essential to poverty eradication, that partnership between local communities and professionals is a key to better health for families in extreme poverty.

An obvious example of the value of drawing on first hand expertise in developing poverty programs is that of Brazil's president who had suffered hunger in his early years. Based on his experiences, President Luiz Ignatio Lula planned and proposed the "Action against Hunger and Poverty" program recently presented to Heads of State at the UN in New York on the 20th September 2004.

Recognizing that we are all part of the human family with equal dignity and rights, we recommend at the local level that government programs and policies:

- Involve those who live in poverty in assessing needs and analyzing root causes.

- Listen to and acknowledge people who have the experience of living in poverty, as the relevant stakeholders in poverty eradication programs. Indicators for programs in poverty eradication should include active participation, participatory consultation, equal access, constant training and powerful partnerships.

- Include local stakeholders as equal partners in development. Development works when local communities are the subjects rather than objects of development activities and when those most often marginalized are vitally involved in the work of development.

- Encourage and assist people to participate in the activities of the community by facilitating their access to basic services (health, education, justly paid jobs, housing, etc). Development that targets social sectors empowers people with self-confidence and skills and breaks the intergenerational cycle of poverty and dependence.

- Include people with the least opportunity such as youth, minorities, elderly persons, women, the girl child, and indigenous peoples; no social group or individuals should be excluded as having nothing to share.

- Involve women in development projects from the earliest stages, as they are key decision makers in local communities.

- Provide medical coverage and home care for those who are aged or disabled, as well as transportation to medical facilities, especially in developing countries.

- Provide social programs such as community centers that would link communities, including youth, elderly persons, women, the girl child, and indigenous peoples with information.

We recommend that government programs and policies at the national level:

- Define the real capital of the country as human capital, and invest sufficient resources to develop this capital as a fundamental of development.

- Shift the focus of attention of government programs from the middle and upper classes who could afford to pay for services, towards the fast growing constituency who cannot pay for the most basic services.

- Include disaggregated data, by age, ethnic group and gender for all policy evaluation and formation.

- Amend existing polices and develop new ones to ensure health benefits, nutrition, and other economic and social protection for youth, elderly, women, the girl child, indigenous peoples, victims of racism and xenophobia, immigrants and other marginalized groups.

We recommend that programs and policies at the Global level:

- Recognize that some countries have been stripped by developed countries of their most basic resources: natural resources, skilled workers, life resources like water, land and forest, to the impoverishment of those countries and the enrichment of others. A clear, effective, long-term plan of just restitution must be made and implemented immediately.

- Focus on the distribution of wealth. Those countries that have gained the most from globalization are morally responsible for sharing their financial resources, not as "charity," but as justice to repair the great damage done and honor the commitment to equity. Countries must fulfill their promise that 0.7% of GNP will be given in Official Development Assistance.

- Include the interest, perspective and participation of those suffering from conditions of extreme poverty in projects financed by UN Agencies and intergovernmental agencies including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

When people living in poverty and those who are marginalized themselves participate in all phases of national strategies and programs for development, and when countries that have gained the most from globalization honor their commitment to give 0.7% of GNP in Official Development Assistance, then poverty eradication will move from dream to reality.

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Social Integration

We, the above named international NGOs who are all affiliated with the NGO Committee on Social Development, applaud and commend the dedicated efforts of the Commission on Social Development in pursuit of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration of the 1995 World Summit on Social Development.

Upon examining the past ten years since Copenhagen, an area in need of closer examination by governments and civil society alike is the participation of those suffering the effects of social exclusion themselves. We would highlight the following:

(1) For many reasons, including the enormous energy needed for daily survival and the social exclusion which renders them almost invisible to the rest of society, those living in poverty are often excluded from the planning and implementation of economic and social reform programs. In spite of this exclusion, people living in poverty make innumerable efforts to contribute to the improvement of their lives, and to the development process.

(2) The exclusion of the target population from the design of programs can lead to the projects' failure, as it is less likely to meet the needs of those it aims to help. In addition, frustration and social exclusion can manifest themselves in conflict and may lead to increased instability within families and society as a whole.

(3) During times of conflict, the marginalization of those living in poverty, women, minorities, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities is intensified by the lack of comprehensive safety net procedures. These groups and individuals are most vulnerable in times of conflicts and crises, from childhood to old age.

When approaching the issue of social integration it is imperative that the debate begins at the grassroots level where the needs of the stakeholders are best identified. In promoting social integration governments need to:

(1) Foster the use of **broad-based consultation** in the design and implementation of development policies and programs. Consultation is understood as a process of collective decision-making that maximizes participation of all stakeholders and seeks to arrive at the truth of a matter.

(2) Assess the existence of formal and informal structures that **facilitate collaborative initiatives** to determine their effectiveness and the need to develop new structures.

(3) Use **surveys and community liaisons** to determine the extent of participation (percentage of the community involved) and the degree to which those community members who are typically excluded are involved in the decision-making process: people living in poverty, women, minorities, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities.

(4) Implement methods of **quantitative analysis** in order to measure the number and frequency of consultations held and the percentage of the community involved.

(5) Once groups and individuals who have been left out of the process are identified, innovative approaches should be developed to reach them and to **ensure their participation.**

We are encouraged by the inclusion of civil society in the +10 Review Process and look forward to collaborating with governments to realize the full implementation of the Copenhagen Commitments and the Millennium Development Goals.

This statement is supported by the following non-governmental in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:

AARP
Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Congregations of St. Joseph
Dominican Leadership Conference
Elizabeth Seton Foundation
Franciscans International
International Association of Charities
International Association of Schools of Social Work
International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres
International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation
Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries
VIVAT International

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Statement submitted by Elizabeth Seton Federation and International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

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04-66595 (E) 180105

Structural Adjustment, International Cooperation and Partnerships

We know that we do not make the international decisions and commitments that affect the quality of life throughout the world. That is your difficult task as Member States of the UN. We take heart that several UN meetings have named **PARTNERSHIPS** as essential in redressing the inequalities that divide our world. We will gladly work in partnership with you to face the human community's greatest crisis – enduring and life-destroying poverty. We support the recent statement of the G77 and China in reference to the implementing of outcomes of the Monterrey Conference (A/C.2/59/L.4).

Globalization affects every person and nation, though in different ways. We see Structural Adjustment Programs and International Cooperation and Partnerships (Copenhagen Commitments 8 & 10) as means to relieve the misery of almost 1/3 of our brothers and sisters living in extreme poverty. Commitment 8 of the Copenhagen Declaration states: "We commit ourselves to ensuring that when structural adjustment programmes are agreed to they include social development goals, in particular eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment, and enhancing social integration".

The World Summit on Social Development and the Millennium Summit, 5 years later, were significant steps forward in trying to deal with extreme poverty, the misery and death it brings, and the damage done to the well-being and security of the world.

We see International Cooperation and people-centred Structural Adjustment approaches as powerful aids in making the world more equal, healthier and, therefore, a safer place.

We wish to address three (3) issues:

1. **Political Will**
2. **REAL Partnerships**
3. **Harmonizing social needs with economic policy-making.**

POLITICAL WILL:

We note the numerous recent references of the Secretary General[1] to ***lack of political will*** and the failure by member States to fulfill promises to do what is needed to remove the scourge of poverty. Instead the gap between rich and poor steadily widens.

The words 'poverty' and 'the poor' can sanitise and hide the extent of the misery that becomes the house in which too many people exist. Our members around the world remind us this Commission deals with 1.6 billion real people. We want to speak up for the most vulnerable: for women still bearing the brunt of poverty; for Indigenous people pushed further into the shadows; for those whose lack of education keep them chained in poverty, for communities destroyed by HIV/AIDS. Each statistic, comprising the 1.6 billion living in extreme poverty, has a face and a name and a story.

We appreciate the efforts of many poorer countries to meet the demands of richer nations and the IFIs, to attract essential resources which they lack. We believe this positive effort must be matched by developed countries honoring the financial and resource commitments they have made.

[1] Report of the Secretary General for Copenhagen + 10; Report on International Financial System; SG's Address at High Level Segment of the GA, September 2004.

We note the words of José Antonio Ocampo to the 2nd Committee (Oct. 2004): *"World leaders recently reminded us that the persistence of extreme poverty and hunger is an economically irrational and politically unacceptable phenomenon ..The barrier is not technology, money or geography, but willpower and courage"*. We would add, it is morally indefensible.

The massive funding of wars, anti-terrorism and security too often derails the development agenda. Money and resources have been made available to these needs at the expense of development aid. So poverty eradication remains the beggar at the table. Anti-terrorism and security are immediate concerns of some countries, but not of all. So a crucial question is: Who sets the UN agenda so that it deals with the concerns of all the member states, especially the poorest and most vulnerable?

As the pace of globalisation quickens, there is no forum where corporate lobbyists and lobbyists for global justice can debate or talk with each other. In a world of growing uncertainty we must avoid further polarisation. As the 'common house' of all people, will the UN again open its doors and provide the forum to bring all the protagonists together? Globalisation and its rules unduly influenced by private enterprise, without the moderating influence of other viewpoints, is dangerous.

Releasing real men, women and children from the prison of poverty is not charity. It is justice!
We encourage and call you to translate commitments into reality.

REAL PARTNERSHIPS:

If a fair globalization is to work, *"we need not only the international community composed solely of Governments, but we need the global community that involves States and key actors from every segment of life"*. (Juan Somavia, Director General, ILO)

We recognise there are discrete areas of responsibility and competence in addressing the crisis. Every one of us, as a citizen of the earth community, has responsibility for its welfare. However real partnership calls for greater equality at the discussion table. We see partnership as both gift and challenge: ***a gift,*** if we learn new ways to work together to improve the future health and security of each of us; ***a challenge,*** to move past the resistance to bringing all the protagonists to the table, especially poor persons, women, indigenous persons, NGOs.

We see Partnership calling for:

- Improved and more equal relationships between IFIs and indebted nations
- Changes in the power balance in the WTO, World Bank, IMF. Poorer nations must be actively involved in the decisions affecting them and the welfare of their citizens.
- More effective interchange between BWIs, the UN and its Specialised Agencies.
- More joint meetings of the Second and Third Committees to ensure coherence between economic and social decisions.
- Greater collaboration between Governments, NGOs, the private sector, and all other stakeholders, especially the poor, in formulating policy and evaluating outcomes

INTEGRATING SOCIAL NEEDS INTO ECONOMIC POLICY:

Policy demands imposed by IFIs create conflicts for Finance Ministers of developing states trying to balance the state budget. Many developing countries say that significant parts (even up to 60%) of their GDP must go to service external debt. How can we achieve the MDGs while this situation continues?

We recognise there are many things State Governments cannot control. But there are other things that **are** within your control.

Policy coherence and better harmonisation within and between donor countries, as development partners, will assist more even development by the poorest nations. Within national governments, all ministries should share a development-based agenda faithful to Copenhagen and the MDGs. This policy coherence must also extend to trade. The poorest nations, with few resources, can be hindered by differing or conflicting approaches, models and demands from different funding sources.

The concrete reality of individual countries must be respected. Each country's needs and resources are different. Poor countries are now required to produce Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers by the Bank and the Fund as a precondition for loans. Many countries will need outside assistance to achieve this.

The first evaluations of PRSPs are now being done. Plainly many countries' PRSPs do not give clear priority to the social needs of their people. Severe cutbacks in public sector spending, forced privatisation of public utilities and 'user-pays' principles are often the order of the day. Terms and conditionalities in the PRSP design suggest they are not yet the result of genuine partnership.

There is a serious disconnect between macro-economic policies required of developing nations and efforts to eradicate poverty. Could we take a page out of Ghandi's book and ask, "What effect will this policy have on the poorest people?"
We wish to speak now to the OECD nations.

- Uncontrolled movements of foreign capital into and out of countries are serious problems.
- We call on you to take the lead in developing mutually agreed and binding rules to control flows of external funds.
- We recommend that you instruct your public servants on the Boards of the International Financial Institutions and WTO to ensure that the principles, developed in Copenhagen, New York, Monterrey and elsewhere, inform their decisions about financial and market rules.

The World Bank and the IMF say they wish to help indebted, developing countries find their place as equal players in the global marketplace. But this consistently fails to happen. Over the last 25 years there has appeared the widest divergence in patterns of wealth among countries in human history. This calls for immediate attention if there is to be any hope of meeting the time line of the MDGs.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **That the Financing for Development Secretariat and process be strengthened as the engine of dialogue/decision-making among governments /regions/ NGOs/IFIs. That the FfD Secretariat establishes working groups, involving all stakeholders, on each theme in macroeconomic and social policies.**
2. **That governments fulfil their pledges of financial resources and make available technical and legal assistance e.g. on work with trans-national corporations, HIV/AIDS, and employment rights.**
3. **That all structural adjustment progr ms ensure social programs are sustained for those living on the margins of society.**
4. **That the Second and Third Committees hold more frequent joint meetings to ensure integration of social and economic policies.**

5. **That the social implications of economic policy decisions be integral to IFI and WTO Board negotiations.**

This statement is supported by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Congregations of St. Joseph
Dominican Leadership Conference
Franciscans International
International Association of Charities
International Association of Schools of Social Work
International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres
International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
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Statement submitted by the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.5/2005/1.

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We, international NGOs who are members of the NGO Committee on Social Development and committed through direct service, research and advocacy to global action related to the Development of Africa, welcome this opportunity to review the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly. We have noted that the Declaration and the Plan for Action adopted at Copenhagen (1995) as well as the Implementation Document adopted at Copenhagen +5 (Geneva 2000) repeatedly mention Africa, where 34 of the 50 countries classified by the United Nations as least developed countries (LTDs) and 32 of the 38 nations eligible for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries treatment (HIPCs) are located, as requiring **urgent international, regional and national action** (Part A of the Declaration, Point 7 of the Commitments, Chapter 5 on Follow Up and in particular on the Mobilization of Financial Resources(1995); Commitment 7 and Mobilization of Financial Resources, WSSD+5 (2000)). The human and social costs of insufficient action to bolster the African situation, further worsened by HIV/AIDS, are tremendous!

In this light, we strongly urge:

(1) **Rapid international action on significant debt relief, including cancellation, for the poorest countries of Africa**. The Secretary General has highlighted in his recent report on the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) that increasingly, most of the aid flows to Africa are canceled out by debt service payments (Secretary General's "New Partnership for Africa's Development: second consolidated report on progress implementation and international support", 4 August 2004,A/59/206). Significant debt relief is an essential component of economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa, and creates a serious blockage to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal Number 1 ("The Burdens of Debt", Letter to the Editor of the New York Times by Under Secretary General Ibrahim Gambari Oct. 2, 2004).

(2) **Greater coherence by Africa's development partners to trade, aid as well as debt policies combined with increased aid towards needed development policies in the region**. Continued Sustained Official Development Assistance (ODAs) should be bolstered but attention should be given not to transfer aid into debt, as "deeper debt reduction will require additional financing" and the danger "is a zero-sum game of transferring of aid resources into debt relief ("Africa's burden of debt is still far too heavy", Financial Times, September 22, 2004 by Sir Kevin Watkins; Secretary General's "New Partnership for Africa's Development: second consolidated report on progress implementation and international support", 4 August 2004,A/59/206).

The aim of additional funding should be very specifically to bolster some of the transformative changes advocated by African experts for the African Region, with the intent to place the continent on a path of **regional agricultural self-sufficiency and of manufacturing for export**.

(3) In order to achieve this double goal we urge, in the light of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAAPD), a cornerstone of NEPAD (2001), the following actions:

(a) **Strong support to science and technology institutes across the African continent able to carefully survey the African agricultural terrain, improve existing agricultural production and develop new alternative crops, all three factors directly leading to a more intensive and streamlined agricultural production and to regional agricultural self-sufficiency.** The potential success of the new Marika rice developed by WADA in West Africa with Japanese funding and the Pan-African Cassava Initiative all point the way for more international efforts in those areas.

(b) **Making fertilizer more accessible as an integral part of the intensification of agricultural production.**

(c) **Improving and supporting agricultural extension services** that will bring to the farmers the knowledge of new practices and crops and the information needed for improved integration of agricultural production across the continent.

(d) **Rapidly improving the infrastructure of roads, rails and other transportation across the continent**, needed for water transportation in the case of emergencies and for regional trade.

(e) **Supporting key institutions that would regulate food standards across and within countries, thus facilitating regional trade and food exchanges.**

These key elements of the New African Partnership, if satisfied, will bring Africa closer to the realization of the Millennium Development Goal Number 1, initiate an authentic African agricultural revolution, and facilitate the development of manufacturing for export over the long run.

These actions are however ABSOLUTELY URGENT.

This statement is endorsed and supported by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:

Dominican Leadership Conference
Elizabeth Seton Federation
International Association of Charities
International Association of Schools of Social Work
International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences
Lutheran World Federation

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries
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Statement submitted by Congregations of Saint Joseph, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and School Sisters of Notre Dame, and Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.5/2005/1.

04-66619 (E) 140105

Education is the Key to Social Development

Universal access to equitable, quality education is a potent tool for achieving the stated objectives of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme for Action: the conquest of poverty; the attainment of full employment; and the fostering of stable, safe and just societies (A/CONF.166/9). Education creates the mental and physical health, economic, political and social benefits for learners, their families and their communities indispensable to the achievement and maintenance of sustainable social development.

Much has been achieved . . .

The international community has consistently supported the right to equitable, quality education for all, first identified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirmed in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (GA/RES/44/25). The World Declaration on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand 1990) and the Dakar Framework for Action (Dakar, Senegal, 2000) placed education high on the international development agenda. The promise of quality education for all was repeated in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.166/9) and specified in the goals and targets of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (A/56/326).

During the 1990s enrollment in primary education increased in every region of the world. Today in many regions more than 90% of primary school-aged children are enrolled.[1] Fifty-two of 128 countries for which data are available have or are likely to achieve gender parity in both primary and secondary education by 2005. Twenty-two more countries are likely to achieve gender parity by 2015.[2]

The United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development---2005-2014 (GA/RES/57/254) recognizes the critical importance of education as a means to achieving sustainable development. The resolution reminds us that the work of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa must move forward in a cohesive and consistent manner on the local, national, regional and international levels if we are to achieve sustainability. Placing education at the core of the sustainable development agenda clearly demonstrates the concern and commitment of the international community to the economic, ecological and equity crises we face and reconfirms its conviction to bring resolution to these crises.

Much remains to be accomplished . . .

While the international community continues to acknowledge the important role of education in addressing the myriad global challenges of the third millennium, there is still no cohesive approach to implementing educational goals. Simply mentioning education in the outcome documents of global conferences, summits and UN meetings does not suffice as an effective implementation tool. The gap between the promises of various outcome documents and their actual implementation continues to widen.

[1]United Nations Development Programme, *Millennium Development Goals: A Compact Among Nations Human Development Report 2000*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003) 92.

[2] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Summary Report Gender and Education for All: The Leap to Equality* (Paris: UNESCO Publishing, 2003), 8-9.

An estimated 121 million primary-school-age children are out of school world-wide. [3] Just over half of the children who start primary school complete it---in Sub-Saharan Africa just one in three persists to grade 5.[4] Most of the 121 million out-of-school children are girls.[5] Almost 60% of 128 countries are likely to miss reaching gender parity at primary and secondary levels by 2005---the first test of the global commitment to the Millennium Development Goals.

Finally, it is clear that access to education is not sufficient. Quality education is critical to overcoming poverty, essential to closing the gender gap and crucial to the establishment of just and sustainable societies. Educational policy which focuses exclusively on access and ignores the social, political, environmental and economic reality of children; teacher training and competence; culturally sensitive curricula; and adequate learning resources will fail to move children and their families out of poverty and toward the achievement of real social development.

We, therefore, recommend that the review of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme for Action give ample consideration to the following:

1. Meeting global education goals requires the development of coherence between economic and social policy at the local, national and international levels. Local and national governments must end the direct and indirect costs of basic education to families, if they hope to increase equitable access to education for all. At the same time, the international community must reduce the onerous burden of debt on the world's heavily indebted countries; develop mechanism to ensure fair trade and market access; and increase official development assistance in order to mobilize the resources necessary to achieve equitable, quality education for all.

2. Ending discrimination against girls in education is crucial to social development. Girls' education is both a core human right and a core human development issue. "Educated women are key to breaking the cycle of inter-generational poverty."[6] However, despite the scientific evidence documenting the efficacy of girls' education, it is rarely discussed in policy circles as a way to ensure human development and social progress.[7] Education planning, especially education for girls, should be integrated into poverty reduction plans and development policy thus helping to ensure that human rights principles inform economic development programs. Ending gender disparity in primary and secondary education will require the development of a national and international ethos which upholds girls' right to education and secures a strong political commitment to gender equity.

3. Education curricula must be global in scope and informed by the goals of the United Nations Decades for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004 (A/RES/49/184) and of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014 (A/RES/57/254), at the same time addressing the knowledge, skills and values necessary to achieve sustainable development at the local level. It must be delivered by teachers who are committed to human rights, cultural and gender equity and to teaching tolerance and respect for differences.

4. In many parts of the world non-governmental organizations have a longer history than the state of providing education, particularly for those most in need. Their experience, expertise and participation at the policy-making level are critical to the achievement of equitable, quality education for all.

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[3] United Nations Children's Fund, *State of the World's Children 2004*, (New York: UNICEF, 2003), 7.
[4] *Human Development Report 2003*, 92.
[5] *State of the World's Children 2004*, 6.
[6] United Nations Children's Fund, *Accelerating Progress in Girls' Education* (NY: UNICEF, November 2003), 5.
[7] *2004 State of the World's Children Report*, 9.

This statement is endorsed and supported by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Dominican Leadership Conference
Elizabeth Seton Federation
Franciscans International
International Association of Schools of Social Work
International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres
International Federation of University Women
International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries
VIVAT International

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Statement submitted by Christian Children's Fund, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd and Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Friedrich Ebert Foundation, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

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* * *

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Introduction

We, international NGOs, many of whom are affiliated with the NGO Committee on Social Development, welcome this opportunity to participate in the 2005 review of the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen.)

We recall that commitment #5 of the Copenhagen consensus binds governments to "full respect for human dignity and to achieve equality and equity between men and women" in all areas of social life. Additionally, commitment #1 under letter D also commits governments to "promoting equality and equity for all men and women." Commitment # 6 on universal and equitable education speaks compellingly of the need for priority to be given to education for women and girls.

Therefore we offer these comments on the current state of implementation followed by recommendations to governments that will foster needed progress on these issues.

Overview of Gender Concerns

We are happy to acknowledge that ten years after The Copenhagen Summit, women's status has advanced in many countries in areas of infant mortality rates, calorie consumption, school enrollment, literacy levels, access to health care, and political participation. Particular achievements such as the international acceptance of rape as a war crime and the promulgation of Security Council resolution 1325 are important milestones for women and girls.

Nevertheless, we sadly emphasize that "equality and equity between men and women" are remote realities across all areas of the world. Women and girls continue to be excluded in extreme and significant ways from basic rights and societal benefits. They are also excluded from essential forms of societal participation and are the most vulnerable to stress and deprivation. In some regions, notably, parts of Africa and Asia, women report that they are regarded as having no autonomy or dignity whatsoever and this shapes their own negative view of themselves and their impoverished life expectations.

Current Disparities in Gender Equality

In this era when economic globalization has become structurally embedded in societies, gender-based economic configurations are key to women's disempowerment. Poverty continues to be a feminized phenomenon. Women suffer disproportionately from the negative impacts of international finance models, trade liberalization, and the privatization of public social services. Women are more affected by macroeconomic instabilities than men.

Not only are women, as a group, excluded from the benefits of economic globalization but the widening gender digital gap show that many women and girls are at a high risk of exclusion from technological benefits that might otherwise have been expected to give them access to economic stability.

Social gaps in gender equality and equity persist in chronic forms of poverty and violence against women and girls in all parts of the world. Alarming and increasingly severe manifestations of gender inequality are seen in the phenomena of a rising demand for trafficked women and girls for sexual exploitation, the increasing rate of incidence of HIV/AIDS in women and girls, and the widespread suffering of women and girls in conflict situations and situations of military control. Such social gaps are under girded by the dominance of patriarchal structures that persist in devaluing women in relation to men. This contradicts the very foundation of universal Human Rights and the notion of people-centered

development that is essential to social development. Social attitudes require government supported critical review and revision even as governments enact laws and apply resources to ensure gender equality.

The implementation of universal education is one of the most essential areas for the Copenhagen review. Multiple UN and UNICEF studies have demonstrated that girl's education is the surest and fastest way of achieving social progress and eradicating poverty. Despite programs such as such as the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) and the World Bank Fast Track Initiative to accelerate gender equality in primary and secondary education, over 70 countries risk failure in achieving gender parity in education at these levels by 2005[1]. Education must be universally accessible comprehensive to support the value of human dignity.

Recommendations:

Therefore, in accord with these failures in implementation, and in accord with the continuing commitments that governments have made since Copenhagen, including the review of Beijing in 2000, the Monterrey Consensus of 2002, the ongoing work of the Financing for Development process, and, of course, the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, we make the following policy recommendations for Gender Equality and Equity:

We call on governments to:

- Articulate, with the active participation of women from all sectors of society, a commitment to change the dominant patriarchal structures that underpin the issues noted above. Governments should sign and implement all international agreements relative to gender equality and publicize, within all sectors of national life, a priority for action toward gender equality.
- Integrate a coherent policy based on the centrality of universal human rights and the dignity of each person. Consultation of grassroots citizens ought to inform all policy development. Macroeconomic and social policies ought to contribute hand-in-hand to human dignity, gender equality, poverty eradication and sustainable development. We note that strong environmental policies that protect natural resources and provide clean and safe environments to women and their families are essential to person-centered development that supports gender equality and assures life for future generations. Guiding values that concentrate primarily on liberalization and privatization constrain social progress. They serve the benefit of some countries or groups of society to the exclusion and detriment of others, including women as a group. Values that guide macroeconomic policy towards people-centered development and social justice require behavior and action that is beneficial to all in society.
- Implement and evaluate existing and newly formed policies. Concrete objectives within national plans should have the human person clearly at the center of development goals. The well being of the human person must be the strongest indicator of progress. The principles and priorities of gender equality and equity (described in international agreements to which the governments are signatories) should ensure allocation of resources for these priorities, focus research to obtain disaggregated data, and ensure

[1] This figure is from the second edition of the Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2003.

the participation of women in government ministries. All policies require regular evaluation to determine the progress towards the goals that they are meant to achieve. Such evaluation ought to include the participation of women most affected by gender inequality.

Finally, we affirm that NGOs are willing partners in these efforts to achieve gender equality and equity. NGOs have expertise and determination to assist in this effort. We call on governments to collaborate, substantially and effectively, with NGOs to achieve gender equality and equity for the good of all society.

This statement is endorsed and supported by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:

Coalition against Trafficking in Women

Congregations of St. Joseph

Dominican Leadership Conference

Elizabeth Seton Federation

Franciscans International

International Association of Charities

International Association of Schools of Social Work

International Council of Jewish Women

International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres

International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation

School Sisters of Notre Dame

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries

Soroptimist International

VIVAT International

Zonta International

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Statement submitted by International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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04-66742 (E) 170105

Introduction

The creation of stable employment and decent work is an urgent task for government policy makers and the private sector in countries both of the north and the south. In 2000, one third of the world's labor force or about one billion people did not have such jobs. This number included 160 million unemployed, 300 million underemployed and about 530 million workers who were unable to earn enough money to keep their families above the poverty line. By the end of 2002, the world unemployment rate had increased and the total number of unemployed reached a new peak of 180 million. Two developments are especially noteworthy in this context. First, women and youth are particularly hard hit by the employment crisis. Second, many unemployed were pushed into informal, precarious forms of work which provide no social security coverage in many countries.

We, therefore, recommend that the review of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme for Action give ample consideration to the following:

1. Promoting macroeconomic policies for decent work and policy coherence for development

The coordination of macroeconomic policies, principally trade and finance, has shifted away from the UN-led follow-up mechanisms and towards the multilateral trade and financial institutions. A key strategic policy objective would be to coordinate macroeconomic, trade and investment policies and multilateral agreements, so that they serve the social and sustainable development objectives and human rights standards of the UN. It would be especially important to pursue the policy objective of decent work for all women and men, which the ILO defines as work that is rewarded with at least a decent living wage, in safe working conditions, and that recognizes workers' rights, and the need for social dialogue. The recommendations and follow up processes of the recently launched World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization report can contribute to reaching this goal. They should be incorporated into the follow-up process of the Copenhagen + 10 Review.

2. Integrating social standards in economic, financial and trade policy

Social standards, especially core labor standards, are a critical component of policies aimed at protecting people, especially women and children, from bearing the 'social costs' of globalization. Key to such an approach is the promotion of a regulatory framework whereby countries ratify and implement the core ILO Conventions enshrined in the ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, thereby protecting children from exploitative child labour, ensuring non-discrimination and gender equality in employment, and recognizing workers' rights to be represented by trade unions, and to be covered by collective agreements.

The multilateral financial and trade institutions must also ensure that their policies promote rather than undermine these core standards, and social policies. Promoting dialogue between governments, employers, trade unions and other civil society organizations, on social and employment policies is also key. This involves the adoption of the collective bargaining process to ensure economic justice. Workers should themselves receive a fare share of the productivity gains

of their labour and adequate social protection, as well as social insurance against job-related risks. Therefore, social standards need to be embedded in international economic, financial and trade policies.

3. Addressing unpaid work and informal work

Women's unpaid work is invisible in the economy. In addition to household and caring work, women's often-unpaid activity in small-sized family enterprises is not sufficiently recognized. The growing and highly heterogeneous informal sector, especially in developing countries, is another issue that needs to be addressed adequately. Workers in the informal sector are highly vulnerable, engaging in precarious work that fails to earn them a living wage, while unreliable institutional arrangements result in a lack of social protection. The negative "social costs" of globalization are particularly keenly felt in this sector.

4. Youth and Education: An economic and social imperative

According to the ILO more than 80 million young women and men are unemployed. They account for 47% of all people unemployed worldwide. Their entry into the labour market could be an enormous boon for economic and social development and offer a great opportunity for their contributing to society. For this to happen, much more serious attention needs to be given to the education and training of young people for the job market.

Education empowers young people, especially girls, to be better able to serve their own needs and contribute to their communities. Investment in employment-oriented education and the creation of decent work for the young foster both social development and the longer-term sustainable development by increasing productivity and supporting the growth of national economies. Education also nourishes citizenship, by giving students the knowledge to influence the nature and direction of society, and to engage in political life as adults. (EFA Monitoring Report 2003-04).

5. Provide opportunities to older populations

Older populations are a physical and intellectual resource making major contributions to economies and societies worldwide. As people continue to live longer and healthier lives, we must ensure that there are opportunities for them to continue contributing to society. Those who want to or need to work into later years should not be prevented from doing so. Further, improved health and intellectual vitality of older workers makes them an important and largely untapped resource to economies. Additionally, utilizing the skills and experiences of older workers not only can ease pressure on public pension and other systems, but can give older persons a sense of meaning and purpose, as well as the opportunity to remain active and contributing members of society. Finally, governments, employers and individuals need to realize the continued employment opportunities for aging populations as one of the pillars of individual and national economic security.

This statement is endorsed and supported by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:

AARP
Dominican Leadership Conference
International Association of Schools of Social Work
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

United Nations E/CN.5/2005/NGO/13

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Statement submitted by the Foundation for the Rights of the Family, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.5/2005/1.

04-66779 (E) 240105

In accordance with the principles, goals and commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration (Social Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen 1995), the Programme of Action contains specific elements regarding the family, as they relate to, inter alia, promoting an enabling environment based on a people-centered approach to sustainable development, eradication of poverty, expansion of productive employment and social integration.

Specifically, the Programme of Action states that "Particular efforts should be made to protect children and youth by : "(a) Promoting family stability and supporting families in providing mutual support, including in their role as nurturers and educators of children" (Programme of Action, chapter II D, para. 39 (a)).

The twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (Resolution S-24/2 "further initiatives for social development"" December 2000) says that "Greater attention should be paid to helping the family in its supporting, educating and nurturing role, to the causes and consequences of family disintegration and to the adoption of measures to reconcile work and family life" (Chapter III, commitment 4. Para. 56).

The family in society

The concept of "household" is often used as a proxy for the family; however, the concept of "household" merely implies co-residence and may include persons not perceived as being members of the same family.

The family offers a unit of mutual support, shared resources and burdens, emotional balance and love. Families are the first school for social integration, the centering unit where all rights and values evolve and are transmitted.

The strength of society depends largely on the vitality and force of the family. And society welfare and development are mostly based on both institutions: society and the family.

The wide range of problems confronting the family indicates that, rather than being ignored within the development process, families should be taken into account when discussing social development activities that may affect them.

It is no longer adequate to merely indicate that the family is the basic unit of society and then to ignore the consequences the development process may have on families.

We think that a consensus has been reached about the role of the family in human society and its centrality to development. As such, the family – as a strong force for social cohesion and integration - needs the full support and protection of society and the State, especially in the case of families under economic and social stress, for the benefit of generations to come.

Work and Family Life

The reconciliation of work and family life is still a utopia nowadays.

An OECD series ("Babies and Bosses", 25-10-04) reviews policies in OECD countries to support parents in their choices of work and childcare options, and recommends a range of measures to improve results.

This publication says that "Declining fertility rates are a concern in most countries" and that strong economies and manageable pensions systems depend on both higher fertility rates and higher employment rates.

The OECD series recommend a range of measures and policies to improve results, among them to invest in family-friendly policies (as many Governments are doing with satisfactory results) and to provide support for working families with infants and children. Policies contributing to gender equity and child development include:

low effective tax rates and public investment in childcare and after-school care to make it easier for mothers to take paid jobs.

Workplaces can do more to provide flexible working hours, including part-time employment, to help parents to stay in the workforce and balance the requirements of their job with their children's day-to-day policies.

The tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

Our organization welcomes the resolution to keep the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family as an integral part of the agenda and the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for Social Development.

This will no doubt encourage a number of Non-governmental organizations to hold meetings and seminars on the tenth anniversary beyond 2004.

On the occasion of this important event, some follow-up should be seriously envisaged, such as maybe a formal declaration on the family.

A Declaration of the Responsibilities, Functions and Rights of the Family

The International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo 5-13 September 1994) contains a full chapter on "The family, its roles, rights, composition and structures" (Programme of Action, chapter V).

Societies worldwide recognize that the family has a number of social functions and responsibilities. In fact, historically and by definition, families can be considered as the first private sector with their adhering share of responsibilities, which, in turn, should have their counterpart in certain rights.

The Foundation for the Rights of the Family feels that a declaration on family responsibilities, functions and rights should be one of the aims of the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the I.Y.F.

We therefore would suggest that an open-ended group be created within the Commission for Social Development to review and extract relevant provisions on the family from national laws, international instruments and existing draft declarations.

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Statement submitted by the American Psychological Association, Center for Migration Studies of New York, Child Welfare League of America, Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, International Council of Psychologists, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of Social Workers, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, and World Federation of the Ukrainian Women's Organizations, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

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04-66797 (E) 20010_

As members of Civil Society, we strongly urge Governments to strengthen families-the foundation of social and economic advancement and cultural preservation-as they try to cope with the daunting challenges of our time: globalization, economic dislocation, extreme poverty, migration, and trans-nationalism.

The Copenhagen Declaration and Plan of Action, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, have set positive and far reaching targets to be achieved, including the eradication of poverty, promotion of full employment, social inclusion, gender equality, and access to quality education and medical care. The Millennium Development Goals have specified the time frames for the accomplishment of these goals, and are seeking concrete indicators of the extent to which certain commitments are being honoured. The reduction of poverty and the attainment of child and maternal health are two of the areas they are carefully tracking.

As we approach the review of how far we have come in attaining these commitments and goals, it is clear that the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, can be achieved only if greater political will and increased resources are forthcoming. We therefore urge Governments to show their commitment by:

- Allocating 0.7% of GNP to development assistance
- Enacting policies which strengthen families and their members, especially youth, women, and the elderly
- Promoting full employment with decent wages and working conditions to prevent family fragmentation
- Zero tolerance for human trafficking, especially of women and children
- Guaranteeing adequate health care for all
- Funding for the prevention and eradication of HIV-AIDS.

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Statement submitted by International Movement ATD Fourth World, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.5/2005/1.

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At the Copenhagen Summit for Social Development in 1995, Heads of State and Governments gathered to commit themselves "*to enhancing social development throughout the world so that men and women, especially those living in poverty, may exercise the rights, utilize the resources and share the responsibilities that enable them to lead satisfying lives and to contribute to the well-being of their families, their communities and mankind.*"[1] This constituted a considerable advancement in the concept of fighting poverty.

Aware of the numerous efforts these States and their citizens have made in order to fulfil these commitments, International Movement ATD Fourth World, with many others, continues to be concerned with the fact that many people living in extreme poverty are not only failing to benefit from social policies and poverty eradication programs, but are in fact still largely invisible to wider society. These are the very poorest members of our society, the socially excluded and people whose living conditions, efforts and expectations should, but do not, shape social, economic or cultural policies.

It has been recognized, however, that the eradication of poverty will not happen by default. ATD Fourth World noted in its contribution to the Copenhagen + 5 Summit that "*A major change has also occurred in mainstream development thinking through the recognition that reducing poverty is not an automatic by-product of economic growth.*" [2] However, as recently as 2004, a UNDP paper recognized that "*too often, poverty reduction is seen as an automatic by-product of economic growth and macroeconomic stability.*"[3] This highlights the fact that there is not a genuine consensus in the international community about what needs to be done to eradicate poverty.

ATD Fourth World hopes that the Commission for Social Development will address this issue in depth.

Microcredit projects and the most vulnerable people

Knowing that "*only when people are given the means to become agents of their own development, rather than recipients of aid or handouts, will poverty reduction be sustainable*"[4] we can use microcredit programs as an important tool in the eradication of poverty.

The 1997 Microcredit Summit launched a campaign to reach 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of those families, with credit for self-employment and other financial and business services by 2005. This year, the International Year of Microcredit, will serve as an opportunity to evaluate the program in a meaningful way in order to fight poverty. There are numerous experiences at the grass-roots level which can aid in reaching a better understanding of the importance of microcredit, as well as the difficulties faced by those living in extreme poverty in their attempts to benefit from such programs.

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1 U.N. World Summit for Social Development. (A/Conf.166/9) 19 April 1995.

2 DESA and ATD Fourth World. *Redefining Human-Rights Based Development: The Wresinski Approach to partnership with the poorest.* (ESA/DSPD/BP3) December 1999.

3 UNDP. Vandemoortele, Jan. *The MDGs and pro-poor policies: Can external partners make a difference?* March 2004, p. 1

4 UNDP.Vandemoortele, Jan. Already quoted p. 12

The Secretary General of the United Nations recognized potential shortcomings in his 1998 report on the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty by stating: "*Some studies show that there are limits to the use of credit as an instrument for poverty eradication, including difficulties in identifying the poor and targeting credit to reach the poorest of the poor. [...T]he poorest of the poor are usually not in a position to undertake an economic activity, partly because they lack business skills and even the motivation for business.*"[5]

However, from its experiences with people living in extreme poverty, ATD Fourth World asserts that the issue is even more complex, with the state of poverty and its attendant social exclusion, vulnerability, and daily humiliations meaning that many people cannot even conceive of the risk-taking necessary to start a business, however small. The frequent lack of respect for and trust of people in poverty by other members of their communities often means that a business can hardly be sustained without the appropriate support.

For instance, a recent study on poverty and families conducted by ATD Fourth World describes how microcredit failed to reach the poorest in Central America. This is best illustrated through the words of a local woman who was invited to join a small women's microcredit group. She said "*I cannot participate, because I cannot stand the looks my neighbours give me. They know a lot about me and so they laugh at my situation. They know private things: that my partner abandoned me and my children, that some of my children live in the streets and use drugs, and that I am living in the most absolute loneliness, with my morale at rock bottom.*"[6]

Microcredit initiatives pinpoint conditions that make progress possible

Through its own teams and the correspondents of its network the "Permanent Forum on Extreme Poverty in the World,"[7] ATD Fourth World has participated in or seen microcredit projects which bring real progress to the poorest members of a community. As illustrated by the example below, such initiatives underlined the conditions under which this progress was possible.

In the mid-1990s, members of the Fourth World Volunteer Corps based in West Africa were faced with requests for money from very poor families, whose difficulties were exacerbated by a reduction in public development aid and investment in the fight against poverty.

October 17, 1997, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, was a turning point. At the commemoration ceremony, a speech by a person disabled by polio in which she made a commitment to stop begging had a huge impact on those gathered there that day. It was, publicly, the starting point of a potential for real change. However, a commitment to stop begging still left the question of how to find an alternative means for survival.

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[5] U.N. General Assembly, 53rd Session. *Report by the Secretary general on the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty.* (A/53/223) 10 August 1998.

[6] ATD Fourth World. *How Poverty Separate Parents and Children: A Challenge to Human Rights*, 2004, pg. 34

[7] Individuals and organizations in over 100 countries involved in action against poverty and social exclusion.

After more than a year of consultation between volunteers, supporters and people living in the street, it was decided to develop a microcredit project. This very long period of dialogue can be considered a fundamental first step in the road to success for a microcredit project because the relationship of trust that was established throughout the process also led these men and women to perceive themselves differently: "*Now, when people scorn me in the street, it affects me less. I know that there is something other than begging!*" Another person said: "*We knew only the street. We thought that it was our whole life*". In these people's lives, this was an important moment of awareness.

The next step was to work out guidelines that would respect everyone and take into account the realities of their lives. A number of microcredit projects were inaccessible to the poorest, with some excluding people in the long run. Members of ATD Fourth World knew also that despite the fact most of the microcredit projects were no longer aimed specifically at women, men were often considered as "bad credit risks" and therefore excluded from participating.

After discussion and reflection, the microcredit formula chosen consisted of one part of the sum lent (around 30 Euros) as a gift, with the remainder to be repaid. At first, one of the participants began working with a friend who owned a small roadside food-stall. With a kettle and a small heater, she offered mint tea to the customers, as well as cooled fruit juices. She was able to develop plans to set up her own small food-stall. Eventually, she was able to hire a young girl to assist her.

There were many obstacles to face, including finding customers, transforming from begging into business, avoiding police raids in the name of street cleanliness, difficulties in administrative knowledge, overcoming the general risks of life, and to survive (illness, emergencies, and the support of relatives in prison etc.)

Certainly, the participant's success remained fragile, but 7 years later, it is still a source of pride for the participants to be able to say, "*I am a businessperson.*" On October 17, 2004, a woman testified: "*My fight has a beginning but no end. We fight to have our rights.*"

Recommendations from microcredit projects which enable the poorest to benefit

From the previously outlined experiences, which are certainly small but very significant, it is possible to propose several recommendations for microcredit projects which enable all members of society to benefit, including the very poorest.

- Knowledge of the specific social reality and a long-term commitment are necessary in order to build a project in co-operation with the people themselves, alongside them.
- Microcredit projects must be implemented after long-term consultation with those it aims to benefit, including the poorest members of society.
- There must be on-going and flexible support for the participants, recognizing the many difficulties the participants face with setting up a business, including administrative challenges and legalities.
- To build projects in link with the whole community, people living in poverty need support and to be helped to be free of the stigmas and social exclusion they are facing.

The challenge to eradicate extreme poverty

The eradication of poverty requires more than providing financial growth opportunities. The phenomenon of poverty is created by multi-dimensional social factors and to eradicate it means enabling the poorest to exercise their rights and assume their responsibilities. Microcredit projects should not be stand-alone activities, but should be implemented alongside other social projects.

There are many NGOs who work closely with very poor families in order to empower them to benefit from education, health care and economic initiatives. Without reaching these families on economic as well as other levels, it is likely that projects won't reach the poorest.

The struggle against poverty requires a better global understanding of extreme poverty and the promotion of a human rights-based approach. This makes it possible to develop coherent, comprehensive and forward-looking policies within the context of globalization.

Unfortunately, ten years after the Copenhagen Declaration, "*many of the so-called pro-poor policies are often blind to the realities faced by the poor.*" [8]

The threat of exclusion of the poorest can be found even within the Millennium Development Goals. In relation to the overall goal of reducing the number of people in poverty by 50% before 2015, the question remains of what will become of the other 50%? How could such an objective be acceptable in a human rights framework? How can people living in a village, a neighbourhood or even a whole country accept to be the other 50 percent, the half that didn't get reached? What possible ethical significance could such an objective have to them when we remember the efforts of those persons who are trying to stop begging?

The United Nations must continue to be a symbol of humanity in solidarity with the poorest. This means constantly reintegrating humanity's most fragile members into the heart and fabric of our societies. This on-going process has to be reinvented time and again. Today, the United Nations is the last bastion against a divided humanity, a humanity that moves on different tracks. There is the fast track where security will be imposed by the strength of the powerful. Those who lag behind on the slow track are inevitably relegated to social exclusion, wherever they live.

The United Nations must make eradicating extreme poverty central to its commitments, central to its policies for peace and to its responsibility for protecting and promoting fundamental rights and liberties. The commitment and civic mobilization the United Nations is trying to generate must open up to include the poorest people themselves, "enabling them to become genuine partners in development"[9] as was pledged in Copenhagen.

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[8] UNDP. Vandemoortele, Jan., Already quoted p. 17

[9] UN. Copenhagen Plan of Action, 1995. Pg. 59, para. 24.

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Statement submitted by HelpAge International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.5/2005/1.
** This statement was received after the established deadline date.

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2005 is a special year for all citizens of the world, rich and poor.

It is a chance not only to chart failure, but also to renew energy and commitment - both to people centred development and human rights fulfilment in the spirit of successive international and regional agreements. It is a year for Poverty to be Made History, with increased and better aid that delivers tangible benefits to the poorest. It is the year of a new 'Agenda for Africa' in support of a strong and prosperous Africa, and for renewed commitment to the 2015 targets.

The occasion of this 43rd session of the Commission for Social Development is to review progress of the Copenhagen Social Summit, including the second commitment to "*eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind.*" Five years ago, HelpAge International suggested[1] that the litmus test to measure the success of Social Summit goals would be how the poorest older women and men were benefiting from these commitments. There has been some progress. The 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing builds on Social Summit commitments, affirming the rights of older women and men, to development, to inclusion in poverty programmes, to participation, to a voice, to social security and social integration, to freedom from abuse and discrimination, to employment, to subsidised health care and to basic services such as water and sanitation.

Nevertheless the Summit review is reminding us that there is much to be done and no time to lose. High levels of income inequality, and social exclusion persist. The goals of greater equality for the poor, including older women and men, of access to employment and opportunity have not been reached. In many countries the poor of all ages are staying poor, or growing poorer even with economic growth. In particular, the numbers of the chronically poor and socially excluded, those who benefit least from economic growth and development, are growing.

Currently one in 6 of the inhabitants of Sub Saharan Africa are chronically poor. Key features of chronic poverty include its duration, its difficulty to get out of and its intergenerational transfer. Chronic poverty affects the old and young particularly. They make up the majority of the 900 million who may still be in poverty even if MDGs are met by 2015.

The chronically poor include the social groups of special interest to this Commission – older women and men, children, unemployed youth, women, the disabled, migrants, the dispossessed, the invisible and uncounted. They include the orphans and vulnerable children and their older carers battling against HIV/AIDS. 60 % of fewer than 15s live with older carers in parts of Africa. They do not have access to the basic services to which they are entitled, nor to the development benefits voted by successive summits.

Governments, civil society representatives and their organisations need to ask themselves hard questions - not only about why the chronically poor have not benefited as they should from development, but also how programmes agreed as a result of the reviews will deliver to them.

[1] HAI 2000 *Intergenerational Solidarity: the key to a society of all ages.*

This is why HelpAge International is calling for a global commitment to increased social protection to further social summit goals. New, pro poor people centred programmes are needed to deliver human rights goals of equity and redistribution, and to target the poorest.

There is growing evidence is that social protection in the form of health and education, and particularly cash transfer in the form of old age pensions and child grants, not only responds to poor peoples priorities, but takes forward human rights, supports social inclusion and targets the poorest.

Regular and dependable income in even small amounts achieves poverty reduction and enables poor people to access development benefits such as health, water, education, improved nutrition and so on, to support children in their care as well as themselves. For example, in a pilot programme supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit-GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation) in collaboration with the government of Zambia, both school attendance and nutrition appear to have improved since the introduction of a monthly cash transfer of approximately US $6.00 - equivalent to a 50kg bag of maize.

HelpAge International is calling for enhanced social protection and cash transfer to form part of every national poverty reduction strategy. This would enable governments to establish new programmes, scale up existing programmes of cash transfer that target the poorest, and gather evidence and learn from existing schemes. International support is needed for those countries that have established, or want to establish increased social protection, cash transfer and social pension schemes, including Nepal, Bolivia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

Global action on social protection would go a long way to further the delivery of donor and recipient country human rights obligations to the poorest people, and thereby take forward and develop the social summit commitments in concrete and tangible ways. All citizens, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity and ability, in all countries should be able to realise their rights to education, health and a regular income in old age.

Such action would realise the desire expressed in 2001 by Mr. K. Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary for the Economic Commission for Africa, when he said: "*Good governance means respecting and fulfilling the rights of citizens. For the international partnerships, we envisage a compact in which African governments and their development partners jointly meet their obligations to the world's poorest citizens.*"